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Washington, D.C. 20505

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Honorable Benjamin S. Rosenthal
Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce,
Consumer & Monetary Affairs
Committee on Government Operations
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ben:

With regard to the seventeen classified Central Intelligence Agency documents which you desire to make public, my staff informs me that we have indeed complied with the Memorandum of Understanding which you have referenced in your correspondence to me on this subject.

My response to your initial letter in September was hand delivered to your Subcommittee Counsel within the ten-working-day limit stated in the Memorandum. In that response I stated that the information in the documents remained classified and could not be published. I offered to conduct an interagency declassification review of the seventeen documents as an accommodation to the Subcommittee. As I mentioned to you last week on the telephone, I regret the length of time the review process required. Because of the great sensitivity of the sources of the information in the documents and the legal requirement to coordinate the declassification review with other agencies, the process was prolonged.

On 15 January 1982, my staff delivered to your Subcommittee Counsel the results of that review process. Your Counsel has informed my staff that he believes that much additional material should have been declassified. In view of this, I have asked appropriate senior officials to review the material once again. I will be in touch with you as soon as they complete their work.

Sincerely,

/s/ William J. Casey

William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence